

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 07MANAGUA1069, FORO LIBERAL SEEKS LIBERAL UNITY VIA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07MANAGUA1069**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">07MANAGUA1069</a>	<a href="#">2007-04-26 14:57</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Managua</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4103/la-embusa-y-el-gabinete-de-ortega>  
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-ldquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>  
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

VZCZCXRO8190  
PP RUEHLMC  
DE RUEHMU #1069 1161457  
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9980  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1077  
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 001069

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/26/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [KDEM](#) [NU](#)  
SUBJECT: FORO LIBERAL SEEKS LIBERAL UNITY VIA  
MUNICIPALITIES AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: MANAGUA 1036 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli. Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) Eight Liberal Forum (Foro Liberal) members, who invited the Ambassador, DCM, and PolCouns to meet over breakfast on April 24, are seeking to foster Liberal unity at the municipal level and through the National Assembly's Nicaragua Liberal Alliance (ALN) and the Liberal Constitutional Party (PLC) caucuses. While the Foro lost much of its wind before the 2006 elections when divisions arose between members favoring the ALN candidate and those supporting the PLC option, after what all members concur was a "disastrous electoral outcome," they are now attempting to regroup and serve as financiers and facilitators of opposition unity efforts.

¶2. (C) Margarita Sevilla Sarmiento, who chaired the session, concurred with the Ambassador that Liberals are not tangibly further along in their efforts to unite than they were over a year and a half ago. The group also agreed that as long as Arnoldo Aleman rules the PLC, it will not reform, and deserves its nickname, "Partido Zancudo" (the mosquito, or bloodsucker, party). Sarmiento attributed much of the dilemma to Nicaraguans' growing "relativism" of their values and a disregard for rule of law, probably in an effort to adjust to adversity and uncertainty from decades of dictatorial regimes.

¶3. (C) Sarmiento termed the recent Foro-sponsored meeting between seven PLC-associated mayors who reject Aleman's pact and the Ambassador (Ref A.) a "modest success." Foro members offered that only pressure from the party bases at the municipal and departmental levels will convince the PLC leadership that Aleman's time at the helm must end, and that his presence poses the main obstacle to Liberal, and broader, opposition unity. They agreed that the 2008 municipal elections, if Ortega does not find a way to postpone them, present a window of opportunity to the opposition to chip away at the Sandinista National Revolution Front's (FSLN) local power base and to form a viable political front in preparation for the 2011 national elections.

¶4. (C) Foro leaders were receptive to the information we provided on a professional mediator, Mexican-Salvadoran Francisco Xavier Hernandez Velazquez, who could facilitate negotiations between the two estranged Liberal caucuses to create a common legislative agenda, independent from Aleman and his master Ortega. They indicated that the Foro might cover the expenses of the mediator and the sessions, and

agreed that U.S. technical legislative assistance would round out the effort.

15. (C) Comment: This somewhat philosophical meeting with the Liberals brought to mind the old Nicaraguan saying that Nicaragua is a land "where cork sinks and lead floats." The high tolerance for "moral relativism" and disregard for rule of law, especially among Nicaragua's traditional political elites, is a bane to the country's democratic evolution. Reform-minded politicians who promote transparency in government and refuse to play mafia politics invariably fall victim to fabricated charges by the FSLN-PLC pact-controlled judiciary sector, which attempts to drag them down to the lowest, corrupt denominator. A national pastime is divisive Machiavellian, "zero sum" politics, in which it is preferable to allow a mediocre, autocratic candidate to win an election if doing so blocks a more capable, democratic competitor.

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